

**"THE PEASANTS OF AMERICA"**

Worcester, Mass.—Under the above caption, the Worcester Post says:

"As the facts develop in the East Youngstown, Ohio, strike-rioting, where the town was partially burned, we find that the problem of immigration was to a large degree behind it all.

"For 30 years the large manufacturers of this country have acted as if immigration were an important department of their business. Immigration they needed to 'solve' their labor problem. The more workers arriving every year—the more men standing outside their gates every morning waiting for any old job at any old wages—the better the big employers liked it. It meant plenty of hands at low cost for the hard, laborious, unskilled work. This in turn meant plenty of recruits, anxious to learn the skilled work. Thus the cost of common labor was kept down and quiet maintained among skilled workers by the spectacle of more, and yet more, ready to jump into their jobs.

"In every industrial locality there grew up 'settlements' of uneducated, untrained strangers—peasants from the backward farm sections of backward south European countries. Did the manufacturers have any thought for the welfare of these untrained people?"

"Did the big employers take steps to educate them, or their children? Did the fellows who capitalize immigration into big profits do anything to teach these strange-tongued peasants the American language, or enlighten them on American customs and American laws?"

"Not one bit of it! They were perfectly willing to let them huddle miserably in their settlements where they learned nothing about the country of their adoption. The big employer wanted down-trodden peasants to remain down-trodden and ignorant, thinking the thoughts and living the life of the European backwoods.

"There were profits in it—big profits!"

**HEART DISEASE ON INCREASE.**

Washington.—Deaths from heart disease are increasing steadily and deaths from tuberculosis are showing a decline, reports Director Harris of the federal census bureau. From 1904 to 1914 the deaths from tuberculosis in all its forms fell from 200.7 to 146.8 per 1,000, the decline being continuous from year to year. This is a drop of more than 25 per cent. Prior to 1904 the rate had fluctuated, starting at 201.9 in 1900. Even yet tuberculosis has the gruesome distinction of causing more deaths annually than any other form of bodily illness except heart disease, and over 40 per cent more than all the external causes—accidents, homicides, and suicide combined. Steady decline in the rate from tuberculosis is ascribed by the census to a better understanding of the laws of health and the necessity for fresh air.

**DENY A TEN-HOUR DAY.**

Portland, Ore.—Because the Meat Cutters' union asked for a ten-hour day, members of this organization have been locked out by the association of their employers. Local trade unionists are assisting the victimized workers.

**STRIKE GUARDS START RIOT.**

New Haven, Conn.—Police officials of Meriden testified that strike guards fired the first shots in a riot, at that place, November 24. Several thousand workers employed by the International Silver Company at Meriden, Wallingford and other cities in this State are on strike for better conditions. The company has asked Judge Webb to issue an injunction and an award for damages. At the trial last week the company's attorneys placed much importance on the riot. Policeman Schurer, of the Meriden police force, swore that trouble started when "five shots were discharged from a hole in the factory gate." Sergeant Thayer testified that the strikers were angry and that the only trouble during the strike was when a small riot was started in one of the factories.

John E. Martin, of Wallingford, said it was not necessary to send police in the event of a labor parade, "knowing the strikers as I do."

**FAVORS LABOR SAFETY BUREAU.**

Washington, D. C.—The bill providing for a bureau of labor safety in the Federal Department of Labor has been reported favorably to the House by the Committee on Labor.

**RAILWAY EMPLOYEES TO CONFER**

St. Louis, Mo.—Officers of the railway employees' department of the A. F. of L. have issued a call for the third biennial convention, to be held at Kansas City, Mo., beginning April 10.

**AN INCREASE FOR STAGE EMPLOYEES.**

Wheeling, W. Va.—State employes have raised wages approximately \$4 per week per man. Stage carpenters, with \$25 per week, receive the highest rate.

**Where It Went.**

"There's lots of money in stocks." "Quite right. That's where mine went." San Francisco Chronicle.

**The Aspect.**

"My family has a high descent." "Yes; I understand it took a big tumble."—Baltimore American.

**When He Enjoys Home.**

"Does your husband enjoy home?" "Yes—whenever I want him to take me to the theater."—Cleveland Leader.

**Conscience.**

Now and then conscience whispers, "Just wait till I get you alone tonight!"—Toledo Blade.

**A Matter of Age.**

Ella—She is a Daughter of the Revolution.

Bella—She looks old enough to be the mother of it.—Judge.

**Frozen Steam.**

If hydrogen gas be burned in liquid air it will produce steam in the form of snow.

**The Hole in the Pocket.**

The most dangerous hole in any man's pocket is always the one at the top.—London Mail.

**At the Singing Contest.**

She—What's the difference between first bass and second?

He—About ninety feet.—Columbia Jester.

**Venezuela.**

Venezuela received its name from the early Spanish residents, who saw in it a resemblance to Venice.

**Very Melancholy.**

Said an Irishman, "What a melancholy sight it would be if all the people in the world were blind!"

**Shoes.**

The earliest mention of shoes is in an Egyptian papyrus about 2,200 years before Christ.

**Asia.**

Asia has many high mountains, but has fewer large waterfalls than any other continent.

**The Greek Type.**

A true Greek is of a distinct type—tall, slim, aquiline nose, oval face and mustache.

**No Mercy.**

"Your wife's a judge of human nature, isn't she?" "Judge? She's a prosecuting attorney."

**Walnut Tree Borders.**

Walnut trees in the Netherlands usually line dikes or border lines instead of being in orchard form.

**The Best Conveyance.**

"Father, what is a logical way of reaching a conclusion?" "Taking a train of thought, my boy."

**No Faddism.**

"Do you believe in telepathy?" "No; our doctor is a good old allopath."—Baltimore American.

**A Wet Spot.**

With an annual rainfall exceeding 600 inches, southern Assam is the world's wettest region.

**Information.**

"Pa, what is the 'silent majority'?" "Two men when there's a woman present, my son."—Boston Transcript.

**How He Avoided It.**

"Have you ever been hissed off the stage?" asked the girl who was thrilled at having met a real actor.

"Oh, no," he replied. "When I'm off the stage I always try to be among friends as much as possible."

**Rebuttal.**

Employer—How dare you tell me you can't live on your salary? You haven't a car, have you?

Employee—No, sir, Employer—Sufficient! Every fellow who really can't live on his salary has!—New York Globe.

**Not At All Necessary.**

"What was the cause of the quarrel with your husband?"

"I want you to understand, judge, that when we want to fight we don't have to have a cause."—New York Press.

**Close to Us.**

"What are the things that touch us most as we look back through the years?" asked a lecturer impressively.

There was a moment's pause, and then a small boy in the audience answered, "Our clothes."

**No Cause For Worry.**

Painter (to his servant)—Now, carry this picture to the exhibition gallery, but be careful, for the paint is not quite dry yet.

Servant—Oh, that's all right. I'll put on an old coat.—Fliegende Blätter.

**Weeds.**

A rank growth of weeds becomes an asset when plowed under before they make seed.

**Long Courtships.**

Bohemia is the country of long courtships. In no other part of the world are they so abnormally drawn out. It is not rare to hear of engagements which have lasted fifteen or twenty years.

**Shaking Hands.**

Few people know how to shake hands well. The general run of folk either give a limp paw and allow it to be shaken or else grasp yours in theirs and nearly dislocate it with their violence.—London World.

**Mercy.**

To show mercy is nothing; thy soul must be full of mercy. To be pure is nothing; thou shalt be pure in heart also.—Ruskin.

**BRIGHT BRIEFS.**

There's a time to let up—never to let down.

It is the grownup babies who cry over spilled milk.

Figures may not lie, but figures of speech are often misleading.

It is more blessed to give than to receive the things you don't want.

The Nobel peace prize threatens to become a sad reminder of something that does not exist.

In making a dollar go far the most important thing is the direction in which you make it go.

After the war is over and the censors have all retired we shall know more about what has been going on.

The Panama Canal has been closed about long enough for stormy old Cape Horn to figure in the news again.

It always cheers a man on his way home swelling with big news to be informed on arrival that the furnace is out.

An early drop in egg prices is predicted. Before long it may be possible for a family in ordinary circumstances to own one as a mantel ornament.

Racing around the bed for fifteen minutes is recommended as a cure for sleeplessness. Might it not have the reverse effect on a sleeper in the room beneath?

**Two Sinners.**

"It is very wrong to tell a falsehood," said his mother to little Jimmie, whom she had caught in one.

"Then we're both offal sinners, ain't we, maw?" queried Jimmie.

"Both! What do you mean?" "Why, you told Mrs. Smith yesterday that you hoped she'd call again, and after she wuz gone you said you wished she'd never come again."

**Age of the Harp.**

The harp which was suggested by the lute, is ascribed to Jubal, 3875 B. C., and was King David's favorite instrument. The harp was used by the Welsh and Saxons and also by the ancient peoples of Ireland. One of the oldest harps in existence is in the Dublin college museum and originally belonged to Brian Boroihme, king of Ireland.

**Lost Letters of Wagner.**

The first tenor who won Wagner's admiration, Tichatschek, left to his daughter when he died a number of letters written to him by the great composer, whose Rienzi he created. On her death the daughter bequeathed these letters to the Wagner museum at Eisenach, but on the way from Brussels the case containing them was opened, and the contents were stolen.

**The Largest Domes.**

Some of the largest domes in the world are: The Pantheon at Rome, 142 feet diameter, 143 high; baths of Caracalla, Rome, 112 feet diameter, 116 feet high; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 115 feet diameter, 201 feet high; St. Maria delle Fure, Florence, 139 diameter, 310 feet high; St. Peter's, Rome, 139 feet diameter, 330 high; St. Paul's, London, 112 feet diameter, 215 feet high.

**Trying to Signal.**

"What did you tell that man who asked you if he could marry his daughter?"

"I acted as grudgingly as possible," replied Mr. Cumrox. "I couldn't tell him right out that Gladys has a sharp temper, but I thought I'd sort o' hint to him that she might have inherited one."—Washington Star.

**Two Sentiments.**

A young lady one day requested Moltke and Bismarck to write a few lines in her album. The marshal took up the pen first and wrote: "Falsehood passes away; truth remains.—Von Moltke, Field Marshal." After reading what Moltke had to say Bismarck took the pen and added the following: "I know very well that truth will prevail in the next world, but in the meantime a field marshal himself would be powerless against falsehood in this world.—Von Bismarck, Chancellor of the Empire."

**Nice Table Ornament.**

When Sir George Trevelyan was chief secretary for Ireland, in troublous times, the police made him carry a pistol about with him. One night after dinner he took it out of his pocket and put it on the table, saying to his host, "Pray forgive me, but if you knew how tired I am of carrying this thing about!"—London Standard.

**The Artichoke.**

The artichoke has nothing to do with art of the choking of it. The artichoke is an innocent vegetable known to the Arabians as the ardischanki, or earth thorn. The Jerusalem artichoke was never seen near Jerusalem. Its first name is a corruption of the Italian girasole, which means turning to the sun. It is a species of sunflower, bearing a tuber like that of a potato.

**Where to Begin.**

"Look here," said the reforming husband, "We must have things arranged in this house so that we shall know just where everything is kept."

"With all my heart," sweetly answered his wife, "and let us begin with your late hours, my love. I should very much like to know where they are kept."—Stray Stories.

**Putting It Gently.**

Mr. Henpeck—I hear that young Jones and his wife are not getting along very well. Mrs. Henpeck (authoritatively)—Jones should never have married when he did. He was too young to realize the step he was taking. Mr. Henpeck—Yes, I know. But I like the boy. We have many things in common.

**This Happened in Boston.**

Teacher—Emerson, what is "spilling the beans?"

Emerson—Slang, ma'am, and vicious slang at that.

Teacher—I mean can you give me the definition of it?

Emerson—Yes, ma'am. "Spilling the beans" in its best colloquial sense is the unpremeditated extemporaneous promulgating of information concerning which one should have been much more reticently inclined. — St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**An Indian Custom.**

A social custom of the Crow Indian, which is often encountered among other Indian tribes and also among the natives of Australia and Africa, is the mother-in-law taboo. A man and his wife's mother never talk with each other, not from any motives of hostility, but rather as a token of mutual respect.—Southern Workman.

**Beginning of the Germ Theory.**

Agostino Bassi, a country doctor in the north of Italy, early in the last century was the starter of the germ theory of disease. At that time a peculiar disease was killing the silkworms, bringing ruin to the whole silk country of Italy. Bassi, by the microscope, discovered the germ which is the cause of the disease. The germ later was named Botritis bassiana. Bassi believed and stated that human diseases were also caused by germs. Bassi's work was sneered at and pooh-poohed by his fellow men and physicians, and he failed to make a lasting impression, thereby losing great glory for Italy.

**Promptness.**

Avoid indecision. Promptness is a great leader, while procrastination limps behind. Today is master of the situation. Tomorrow is an impostor who is almost sure to bring failure with him.—James T. Fields.

**Caution.**

If a man whose integrity you do not very well know makes you great and extraordinary professions, do not give much credit to him. Probably you will find that he aims at something besides kindness to you and that when he has served his turn or been disappointed his regard for you will cool.

**The Copts of Egypt.**

The Copts in Egypt are the book-keepers and scribes; they are also the jewelers and embroiderers. Their ancient tongue has fallen into disuse and is practically a dead language. They now use Arabic, like all the rest of the nation, but the speech survives in their church service, a part of which is still given in the old tongue, though it is said that even the priests themselves do not always understand what they are saying, having merely learned the sentences by heart, so that they can repeat them as a matter of form.

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